

Revised Power of Attorney Practice - 37 CFR 1.32
(Applies to powers of attorney filed on or after June 25, 2004)

As a result of a revision of the patent rules relating to powers of attorney, a power of attorney filed on or after June 25, 2004 must either appoint:

- a) One or more joint inventors; OR
- b) Those registered practitioners associated with a Customer Number; OR
- c) Ten or fewer patent practitioners, either in the power of attorney itself, or by a listing in a separate paper accompanying the power of attorney, as explained below.

See (newly established) 37 CFR 1.32(b) and (c), the text of which is as follows:

(b) A power of attorney must:

- (1) Be in writing;
- (2) Name one or more representatives in compliance with (c) of this section;
- (3) Give the representative power to act on behalf of the principal; and
- (4) Be signed by the applicant for patent (§ 1.41(b)) or the assignee of the entire interest of the applicant.

(c) A power of attorney may only name as representative:

- (1) One or more joint inventors (§ 1.45);
- (2) Those registered patent practitioners associated with a Customer Number;
- (3) Ten or fewer registered patent attorneys or registered patent agents (see § 10.6 of this subchapter) (patent practitioners). Except as provided in paragraph (c)(1) or (c)(2) of this section, the Office will not recognize more than ten patent practitioners as being of record in an application or patent. If a power of attorney names more than ten patent practitioners, such power of attorney must be accompanied by a separate paper indicating which ten patent practitioners named in the power of attorney are to be recognized by the Office as being of record in application or patent to which the power of attorney is directed.

The filing receipt reflects the power of attorney that has been entered for the application. If the power of attorney appointed more than ten patent practitioners, without reference to a Customer Number and without a separate paper indicating which ten patent practitioners named in the power of attorney are to be recognized, then no patent practitioner has been made of record.

How to take corrective action: Resubmit a copy of the power of attorney along with a separate paper indicating which (up to ten) patent practitioners named in the power of attorney are to be recognized by the Office as being of record in the application or patent to which the power of attorney is directed, or file a newly executed power of attorney in compliance with 37 CFR 1.32.

After receipt of such a submission, the patent practitioners listed on the separate paper or new power of attorney in compliance with 37 CFR 1.32 will be recognized as being of record. For additional information regarding this change in practice, see Revision of Power of Attorney and Assignment Practice, 69 Fed. Reg. 29865 (May 26, 2004); 1283 Off. Gaz. 148 (Jun. 22, 2004) and <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/poafaqs.htm>.